CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 7 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON THE NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

I have the honour to transmit herewith a nuclear free-zone proposal made on 30 July 1991 by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I would be grateful if you could circulate it as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Han Chang On
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON THE NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

The changing situation today raises the establishment of a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula as the mature demand that brooks no further delay.

The major nuclear weapon states, which consider the Korean peninsula their operational theatre for a nuclear showdown, are moving from confrontation to cooperation and reaching agreements on the reduction of nuclear weapons. This fact affords a new objective possibility for turning the Korean peninsula into a zone free from nuclear weapons.

These days the United States takes the posture of not objecting in principle to the establishment of a nuclear-free zone on condition that the parties concerned reach an agreement thereof, and expresses support to the propsal for establishing nuclear-free zones in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa.

We consider that, if the United States and the south Korean authorities take a disinterested approach to our peace initiatives, join us in our sincere efforts to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone, and follow the current of the times, the source of the danger of a nuclear war can be rooted out without difficulty on the Korean peninsula.

It is with such expectation and conviction that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea puts forward the following new proposal for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

1. The north and south of Korea shall agree on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula and make a joint declaration thereof.

We consider that the north and south should negotiate all the legal and practical matters related to turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and adopt a joint declaration with legal effect not later than the end of 1992.

We consider that the joint declaration should provide for the ban on the test, manufacturing and possession of the nuclear weapons by the north and south, the prohibition of the deployment and passage of nuclear weapons and of the nuclear military exercises in the sphere of the nuclear-free zone of the Korean peninsula and the verification of the absence of nuclear weapons through inspections of the north and south.

2. The United States, and Soviet Union and China, the nuclear weapons states neighbouring on the Korean peninsula, shall legally guarantee the nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula, once an agreement is reached and declaration is adopted to this effect.

The nuclear weapon states must stimulate the process of establishing a nuclear-free zone by expressing their willingness not to hinder the Korean peninsula from becoming a nuclear-free zone but guarantee such status.

Within one year after the north and south of Korea jointly declare the establishment of a nuclear-free zone, the nuclear weapon states should remove all factors contravening the nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula and give assurances that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons, as required by international law.

Particularly, the United States, the party which has deployed its nuclear weapons in south Korea, must take measures to withdraw these weapons in conformity with the requirement of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

3. The non-nuclear weapon states in Asia shall support the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and respect its nuclear-free status.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is ready to hold bilateral or multilateral negotiations any time to discuss the matter of establishing a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula.

This proposal is of weighty importance in eliminating the nuclear threat against us and strengthening the system of nuclear non-proliferation in the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, will make a substantial contribution to consolidating peace and security in Asia and the world.

If the Korean peninsula is turned into a nuclear-free zone,it will create a favourable phase for creating a nuclear-free zone in Northeast Asia and lay down a basis for expanding the nuclear-free zone to the rest of the Northeast Asia region.

Proceeding from its anti-nuclear, peaceloving policy, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea solemnly declares at home and abroad its readiness to take all the necessary measures to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic people's Republic of Korea.

Pyongyang, July 30, 1991.